Upgradation of Dhodar-Ali Road

1845. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is aware of the public demand to transform the Dhodar-Ali Road into a National Highway;

(b) whether any memorandum has been submitted by Assam;

(c) if so, the decision that has been taken by his Ministry; and

(d) whether it would be transformed within the Tenth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON. RADHAKIRISHNAN): (a) to (d) All the proposals received from different States and Union Territories, including those received from Assam, for declaration of new National Highways were returned to the respective States and Union Territories. New National Highways are not being declared due to fund constraints.

Roads and Highways in Tamil Nadu

1846. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank is providing any assistance to the State Government for Road Highway Sector;

(b) if so, whether Tamil Nadu is also a beneficiary;

(c) if so, the amount sanctioned;

(d) what is the amount released, so far; and

(e) what is the status report of the expenditure to improve the condition of the roads in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) An amount of Rs. 1670.00 crores has been sanctioned as loan by the World Bank for design, construction and maintenance of State

Highways, Major District Roads and other District Roads network in Tamil Nadu.

(d) No amount has been released so far.

(e) The tender process for these works is in a preliminary stage.

Upgradation of Highways in Assam

1847. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from Assam Government for upgradation of State Highways into National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise; and

(c) the effective steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON. RADHAKIRISHNAN): (a) to (c) All the proposals received from different States and Union Territories including those received from Assam for declaration of new National Highways were returned to the respective States and Union Territories. New National Highways are not being declared due to fund constraints.

Corruption in Highway Construction Project

1848. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had received a confidential letter in November, 2002 from a concerned citizen a Deputy General Manager in the National Highway Authority and made revelations about contractor mafia, loot and extreme corruption in the Union Government's Highways Construction Projects;

(b) whether the complainant had implored that his name should be kept as secret;

(c) whether it is a fact that his name was revealed with the result that he had to pay with his life which he had feared; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?